

Patent
09/785,243

REMARKS

Claim 7, the only remaining pending claim, is independent and has been amended herein.

June 8, 2004 Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the discussion on June 8, 2004 as to the typographical error on the final action indicating that dependent Claim 11 was 'rejected'. In that discussion, the Examiner confirmed that the April 9, 2004 final Action should have indicated that dependent Claim 11 was 'objected to', but contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Section 103(a) rejection

Independent Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable US Patent 5,624,392 (Saab) in view of newly-cited US Patent 5,992,158 (Goddard et al.).

While Applicants believe that Claim 7 is patentable over the art of record, in order to place the application in condition for allowance, Claim 7 has been amended herein to include the limitations of (now canceled) dependent Claim 11. The rejection is therefore respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Independent Claim 7 was also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 12 of US Patent 6,231,595. The amendments to Claim 7 presented herein overcome the double patenting rejection.

Since the Applicant has fully responded to each rejection set out in the final Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that in regard to the above remarks that the pending application is patentable over the art of record and prompt review and issuance is accordingly

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requested. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

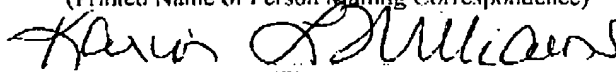

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I hereby certify that this document and any document referenced herein has been transmitted via facsimile to the US Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9303 on June 8, 2004.

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